

# Water Resources Education Center



Visit Us on the Web

## July 2023 Newsletter

Please visit Vancouver's Water Center during these days and times:  
 Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday  
 Closed Saturday and Sunday. Closed July 4 for the Independence Day holiday.

Click on photos below for more details and registration information.  
 Stay connected with us through our [webpages](#),  
[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



### July Reading in the Wild

Join us for this free outdoor reading series for community members with kids ages 3 to 6 years old. The program connects fun stories with nature activities.

Join us every Wednesday in July from 10 to 11 a.m.! We read, and your little ones explore. Mark your calendar to enjoy these fun topics.

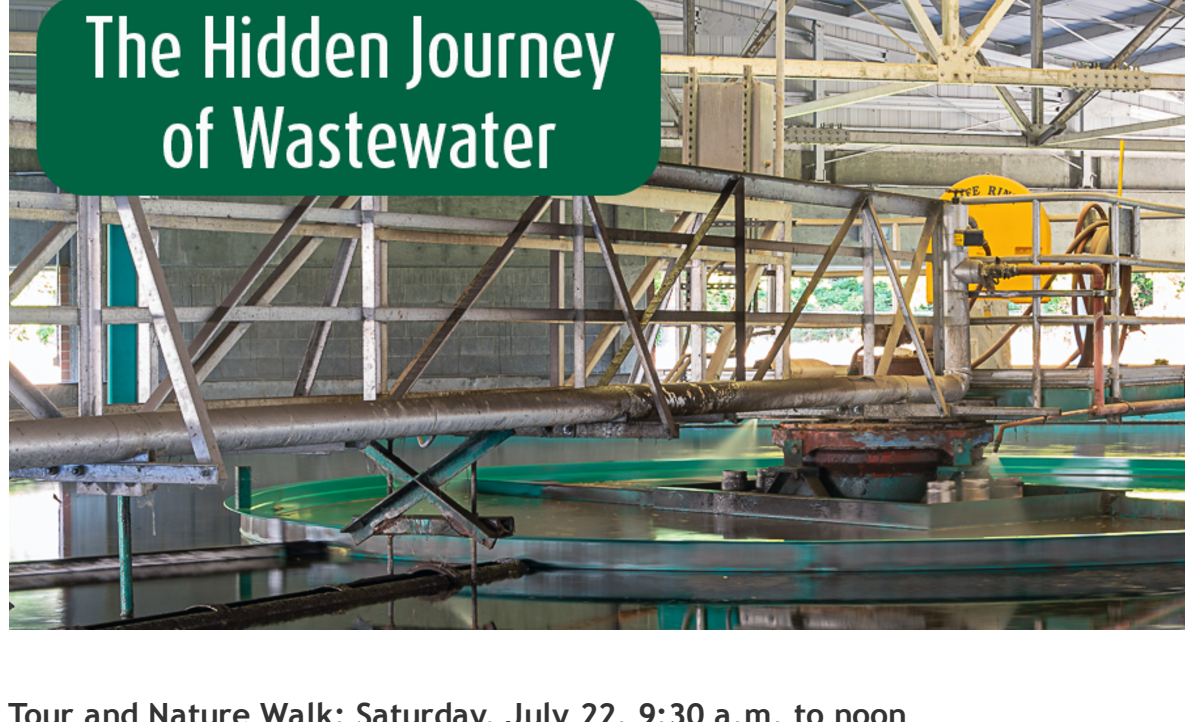
- July 5: Bugs, Bugs, Bugs
- July 12: Flower Power
- July 19: Amazing Amphibians
- July 26: Fabulous Fungi



### Volunteer Opportunities

- Marine Park Beach Cleanup: Thursday, July 6, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Marine Park Ivy Pull: Saturday, July 15, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Marine Park Beach Cleanup: Friday, July 28, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Marine Park Ivy Pull: Saturday, Aug. 5, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Water Center Garden Cleanup: Thursday, Aug. 10, 9 to 11 a.m.

Advance registration is required. Please click on the photo to register and learn more.



### The Hidden Journey of Wastewater

Tour and Nature Walk: Saturday, July 22, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water that goes down your drain? How far does it travel? Where does it go after it is cleaned? Join us for a tour of the City of Vancouver's Marine Park Wastewater Treatment Plant to learn about the unseen journey of wastewater.

After the treatment plant tour, embark on a nature walk to the Columbia River to learn about the riparian ecosystem. Tour participants must be 10 years of age or older and wear closed toe shoes. Advance registration is required. Please click on the photo to register and learn more.



### Art in Nature

Create Art in the Water Center Gardens: Thursday, Aug. 3, 9 to 11 a.m.

Take time to appreciate nature while making some art in the sunshine. Get inspired to make nature sculptures or sketch plants and animals. Pencils and journals will be provided. Advance registration is required. Please click on the photo to register and learn more.



### Stormwater Drain Medallion Program

It is officially summer in the Pacific Northwest. Baby birds are learning to fly and feed themselves, flowers are turning to fruit, clear skies are the norm and dry, warm weather is settling in. With the dry weather comes new opportunities. This summer, the Water Center will be leading the City of Vancouver's Stormwater Drain Medallion Marking program, and we are looking for volunteers!



Water is synonymous with life. Underground aquifers, mountain streams, valley wetlands and the Columbia River are some of the important waterways that support all life in our ecoregion. These water bodies are influenced by our long rainy (and snowy) season, from October to May. The water infiltrates and rivers, soaks into wetlands, recharges aquifers and flows to the ocean.

In populated areas, when rainwater flows over yards and roadways, pollutants can be picked up and carried with the water as it travels to the closest storm drain. Most stormwater drains lead directly to water sources like streams and rivers, so it's important that only rain goes down the drains. Pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria from pet waste, car leaks, sediment and soap can all flow directly to rivers by way of storm drains.



Since 2015, County Code requires new developments to install "Protect Water: Only Rain in Drain" medallions on storm drains. These medallions help remind community members to never dump anything down the storm drains.

Many of the storm drains in Clark County remain unmarked, especially in older neighborhoods. Our goal is to have volunteers install 250 medallions in Clark County this summer while the weather is warm and dry.

This project is ideal for groups of 3 to 5 people who want to join the effort to keep our water clean. To see what the installation process looks like, check out Clark County's Public Works page for a great [video](#).

Apply to become a volunteer and help mark local stormwater drains with medallions! Learn more here: [www.cityofvancouver.us/StormDrainMedallion](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/StormDrainMedallion)



### Naturespaces

Restore green spaces near your neighborhood with the Naturespaces Program! This program brings the community together to participate in restoration and enhancement projects at select sites throughout the City of Vancouver. Volunteers can help support and enhance the city's natural areas and parks. Click on photo to learn more.

### Register for Upcoming Classes!

- Free RecycleU Classes**
- Recycling 101: The Basics
  - Recycling 201: Beyond the Curb
  - Preventing Food Waste
  - Bonus Organics 101



LEARN MORE

[www.cityofvancouver.us/WaterCenter](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/WaterCenter)